

Video Script for Robert M. Gates,
Deputy Director for Intelligence
4 December 1985

The information that we provide to the senior officials of this government on current developments and long term challenges to the United States is intended to warn and to inform. This collection and assessment role is why we were created; our continued existence depends on our successful performance of it.

That performance can be successful only if the human and technical intelligence information on which our assessments are based continue to be available.

-- Let's not kid ourselves. An enormous amount of intelligence information has been revealed in the press; sources have been compromised and lives lost as a result. Still, we in CIA, above all others, must not become cynical about security nor give into despair that the tide of disclosures is irreversible and protecting secrets an anachronism.

-- There are secrets to protect and we must set an example of security consciousness and caution. Specifically, we can and must:

- become more assertive about determining whether others in government with whom we deal have a need to know and whether they have the proper clearances.

- resist the temptation to defend CIA against public criticism by using intelligence information to refute allegations.
 - avoid unilateral decisions to communicate sensitive information. As the Director has said, "if everyone decides for himself which secrets will be kept and which will be disclosed, we have no secrets."
 - avoid revealing classified information or Agency experience as we expand necessary contacts with business, universities, think tanks and other institutions. We must be able to benefit from their views and their insights without compromising sources and methods.
 - refrain from commenting on information published by the print or electronic media.
 - regard as a collective responsibility the protection of all CIA officers who are under cover.
- Journalists and hostile services do their work very much as we do. They collect and integrate many bits and pieces of information into a mosaic. It is essential that no CIA employee unwittingly assist in the assembly of their mosaic by contributing pieces to the puzzle.

The security of our people and of our information is vitally important to accomplishing our mission. Here at CIA, good security should not be regarded as an intrusion or as intimidating but as a pre-condition to doing our jobs. If we cannot protect our sources and communicate our assessments privately to the President and his advisors, we cannot long do our work successfully. While we must do what we can to stop leaks and unauthorized disclosures elsewhere in government, none of us can pass the buck for security at CIA. Each of us has that responsibility.